



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/780,650	02/12/2001	Robert John D'Amato	43170-253692 (05213-0493)	2466
23370	7590	07/25/2006	EXAMINER	
JOHN S. PRATT, ESQ KILPATRICK STOCKTON, LLP 1100 PEACHTREE STREET ATLANTA, GA 30309				BADIO, BARBARA P
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		1617		

DATE MAILED: 07/25/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

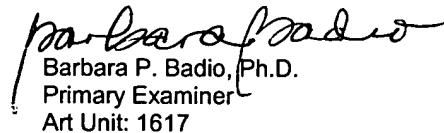
Response to Rule 312 Communication	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/780,650	D'AMATO ET AL.	
	Examiner Barbara P. Badio, Ph.D.	Art Unit 1617	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

1. The amendment filed on 30 June 2006 under 37 CFR 1.312 has been considered, and has been:

- a) entered.
- b) entered as directed to matters of form not affecting the scope of the invention.
- c) disapproved because the amendment was filed after the payment of the issue fee.
Any amendment filed after the date the issue fee is paid must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.313(c)(1) and the required fee to withdraw the application from issue.
- d) disapproved. See explanation below.
- e) entered in part. See explanation below.

A Cross-Reference to the identified applications was inserted via Examiner's Amendment on October 17, 2003. A supplemental Examiner's Amendment is attached hereto.


Barbara P. Badio, Ph.D.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 1617

SUPPLEMENTAL EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Shirley Brosmore on July 21, 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

Page 1, paragraph after the title has been amended to read: --

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of application Serial No. 09/436,610, filed November 9, 1999, now abandoned, which is a continuation of application Serial No. 09/243,158, filed February 2, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,528,676, which is a division of application Serial No. 08/838,699, filed April 25, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 5,892,069, which is a division of application Serial No. 08/571,265 filed December 12, 1995, now U.S. Patent No. 5,661,143, which is a continuation of application Serial No. 08/102,767, filed August 6, 1993, now U.S. Patent No. 5,504,074.

--

Telephone Inquiry

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Barbara P. Badio, Ph.D. whose telephone number is 571-272-0609. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 6:30am-4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sreenivasan Padmanabhan can be reached on 571-272-0629. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Barbara P. Badio
Barbara P. Badio, Ph.D.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1617

BB
July 21, 2006